

O EPA Correspondance

2920-28

Southeast District Office
2195 Front Street
Logan, Ohio 43138-9031
(614) 385-8501

Richard F. Celeste
Governor

March 13, 1990

RE:

**SATRA CONCENTRATES
JEFFERSON COUNTY
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE/
PRE-PERMIT INSPECTION
NPDES OID00037*BD/
OH0041190**

Mr. Louis DiPaolo, Plant Manager
Satra Concentrates
P. O. Box 536
Steubenville, Ohio 43952

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



383929

Dear Sir:

On January 17, 1990, accompanied by you, I inspected the Satra Concentrates facility for the purpose of renewing its NPDES Permit OID00037*BD which expired on May 14, 1983. The renewal application for this permit was received June 16, 1983 (Form 1). Form 2C for the application was received December 31, 1986 in the Ohio EPA, Southeast District Office.

The facility is not manufacturing at this time and has been closed indefinitely, however, ferrous chromium is being recovered from the existing slag piles at the facility. A Bulljig is being used to separate the metallic ore from the slag waste. Approximately 12-18 persons are employed at the facility. During the inspection, the following observations were made:

1. The Bulljig unit sedimentation/recirculation pit is still inadequate despite the improvements which have been made. During the inspection, the wastewater in the pit was observed to be overflowing and leaching through a gravel roadway into an open drainage channel, flowing through a series of 4 small sediment pools and discharging directly to Cross Creek.

Significant improvements must be made to the Bulljig's sediment recirculation impoundment in order to eliminate the above noted discharge. I recommend the pit be lined and sized appropriately in order to retain all the necessary process water. Please inform this office (in writing) within 14 days of the steps which will be taken to correct the above noted deficiencies. Your explanation should be detailed and include anticipated dates for completion of major construction phases.

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The sanitary wastewater treatment plant was originally designed to serve approximately 300 persons. The facility now only employs approximately 18 people. The sanitary wastewater plant is grossly under loaded and has not received the proper maintenance for quite some time. Tall duck weeds were present in the aeration tank and completely covered the clarifier. Although the blower was functional, it is manually turned on and off reportedly about two times per week. Despite the low flow the plant receives, this is not adequate operation for proper wastewater treatment.

During the past few years, monitoring frequency requirements for NPDES Permits have increased and this will be reflected in your renewed NPDES Permit. In light of the fact it is difficult for Satra Concentrates to operate and maintain the sanitary wastewater treatment facilities and monitoring requirements will be greater than you are current accustomed to, it may be advantageous for you to construct a septic tank/leach field system and discontinue the use of the existing sanitary wastewater treatment plant. A septic tank/leach field system would not require the frequent attention as does an extended aeration treatment plant. Sampling of the effluent discharge also would not be necessary because the leach field would not have a discharge. If you decide a septic tank/leach field system would be more economically feasible for Satra Concentrates to own and operate, please contact me at this office for the necessary requirements. If you intend to continue use of the extended aeration package treatment plan which serves Satra Concentrates facility, significant operation and maintenance improvements must be made to ensure the plant is functioning correctly.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact this office.

Sincerely,



Steve Alspach
District Representative
Permits Section

SA:dm

cc: Mike Moschell, DSHWM, SEDO